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MEDICAL AID FOR PEAT WORKERS

A. Luganskiy

A conference was convened recently by the Ministry of Public Health ~~REFSR~~ concerning the medical service to peat field workers. Members of medical enterprises in peat regions, representatives of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations and the Main Administration of the Peat Industry attended.

The medical organization in this field was considered well organized and there has been efficient exchange of experience. Methods were established to determine and remedy weak points.

A report on the medical staffs of Peat Enterprises Shatura First and Imoni Vorovsky served as an example; they are well acquainted with methods for cutting peat and have participated in the operation. They keep in close touch with peat workers and know well the sanitation and health conditions in the field as well as at home. As a result, the medical service emphasizes prevention of suppurative trauma and pyodermitis cases are gradually decreasing.

Peat workers in Leningrad Oblast are served by the hospital at Irinovsk which has several specialists, an X-ray and Physical Therapy department, and a clinical laboratory.

On the other hand, at the dispensary at the Vavogovsk Peat Enterprise, Yaroslavl Oblast, the doctors show no interest in patients. Usual therapy at this dispensary is the administration of antipyretics without any attempt to make gastric and hematologic analyses.

Likewise, the peat enterprise at Markovo is well staffed with doctors and four specialists; but they elect to stay at their headquarters and have made no arrangements to serve personnel working at the so-called "peripheral" peat diggings. This same condition prevails at the Otkryb Enterprise which have five doctors. At Karinki, one of the largest peat enterprises in Kirov Oblast, the duties of the Medical Unit chief have been taken over by a fourth-year medical student.

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Oblast health departments and others, for example, the Kirov Public Health Department, have failed to take proper steps to maintain the health of peat workers. Peat enterprises should be aided by doctors in neighboring cities; the whole Volga region has available the experience and superior knowledge of the city doctors and medical institutions. The Leningrad, Sverdlovsk and Gor'kiy Scientific Research Institutes of Traumatology have given no medical advice to doctors in near-by peat enterprises.

The Central Hospital for Peat Enterprise "Naziya" has not been maintained and representatives of the Ministry of Electric Power Stations assumed the responsibility of building a new hospital. Suggestions were made to speed up home building in the Shatur, Krivandinsk and Yegor'yev Rayons.

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